



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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**TAG POLICY LETTER 02-7**

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### **MILITARY AWARD CRITERIA**

1. Reference: AR 600-8-22, *Military Awards*
2. PURPOSE: To provide further criteria for awarding the Meritorious Service Medal. The intent is to reinstate the importance this award represents, by enforcing the standards set forth in the applicable regulations.
3. IAW paragraph 1-17a. Meritorious service is characterized by distinguished service and performance *above that normally expected over a sustained period*. b. The act substantiating meritorious achievement should have a clearly discernible beginning and ending date.
4. Examples of meritorious service are as follows:
  - a. An officer/NCO who retires from the military with 25 years credible service.
  - b. An officer/NCO who performed significant duties of a higher grade, in an exemplary manner, in the absence of a superior, for an extended period of time.
  - c. A soldier, who in time of national or domestic crisis, demonstrates exceptional performance of duty, displaying the Army Values of Selfless- Service and Personal Courage.
5. Examples of meritorious achievement are as follows:
  - a. Exceeding established standards and goals in the area of retention, attrition management and no-validation of pay for a significant period (i.e. 4 consecutive reporting periods).
  - b. Exceptional pass-rate in a series of external inspections (i.e.: COMET, OIP, CLERT-X)
  - c. Maintaining top-third ranking on the Unit Readiness List for a sustained period of time.
  - d. Design and implementation of a new program which has a positive impact on soldier and family member quality of life; retention rate; equipment readiness, etc.
6. Award recommendations for meritorious service or achievement should include proven or specific, quantifiable statements. The narrative must specifically address the accomplishments for which the award is being recommended.

GLENN K. RIETH  
Brigadier General, NJARNG  
The Adjutant General

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